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239-K Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a resolution of the Madras High Court Vakils' Association, expressing its disapproval of the action of the Madras Government in having entrusted the conduct of the prosecution in the Imperial Bank fraud case to Mr. Nugent Grant, Counsel, originally retained by the Bank;

(b) whether the Government have paid, or are going to pay, any fee to Mr. Nugent Grant for conducting their case, and, if so, what sum or at what rate; and

(c) whether Mr. Nugent Grant has been paid, or is going to be paid, by the Bank, and, if so, what sum or at what rate?

A.—The Government must decline to answer these questions until after the termination of the proceedings in the Presidency Magistrate's Court, but the Government propose to issue a communiqué setting out all the circumstances in which an exceptional course was pursued in this case necessitating the engagement of Counsel other than one of the Law Officers of the Crown.

*Dr. P. Varadarajulu Nayudu.*

240 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the source of information on which he based his answer to Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar's question in the Council held on 12th December 1923 that Dr. P. Varadarajulu Nayudu had invited the Japanese to invade India; and

(b) whether his attention has been drawn to the public denial of this statement by Mrs. Varadarajulu Nayudu?

A.—(a) The information on which the answer was based was the shorthand report of a speech delivered by Varadarajulu Nayudu at Kallidaikurichi in the Tinnevely district on 22nd March 1923, in which the following passage occurs:—

“Some think that we must call Japan to our aid and crush this people (the British). Japan is our elder brother. If Japan is respected more, then Japan will try to claim India for themselves. Then many of us will proceed with Purnakumbhams (welcome demonstrations) and will say wholeheartedly what Japan is doing is quite right.”

The Government were strengthened in their construction of this speech by another made by him on the 24th March 1923 at Tuticorin in which amongst others this passage occurs:—

“Europeans come to India in the winter season... Then we must create some riots and some of us should go to jail.”

(b) The Government have seen no public denial of this statement by Varadarajulu Nayudu himself, but have seen a letter from Mrs. Varadarajulu Nayudu published in some newspapers.

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—“May I put a supplementary question to the hon. the Law Member? I am sure he is as anxious as any of us not to give away the character of any one who is as qualified as he himself. It



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appears to me from what is placed before us in the answer here, that the original statement is rather too strong. I want to know in view of the information placed before us and the letter of Mrs. Varadarajulu Nayudu, a highly respected lady, which saw the light of day subsequent to the original answer of the Government (answer given on the 12th December 1923), whether the hon. the Law Member will kindly consider and see his way to modify the original statement with respect to Dr. Varadarajulu Nayudu?"

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"Does the hon. the Law Member think, from the extract given here, that Dr. Varadarajulu Nayudu invited Japan to invade India? Does the hon. the Law Member think that that is the proper inference to be drawn from what is quoted here?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I do not want to draw any inferences myself. All that I can say is that all of us have read the passage which is to the following effect:

'Then many of us will proceed with Purnakumbhams (welcome demonstrations) and will say wholeheartedly what Japan is doing is quite right'.

and another passage which runs—

'Some think that we must call Japan to our aid and crush these people (the British)'.

In reply to the question which emanated from my hon. Friend from Chittoor, I may say that I am afraid that in response to what Mrs. Varadarajulu Nayudu says the Government can take no action, but if Mr. Varadarajulu Nayudu will say openly that he did not intend to do it, the Government will only be too glad to accept his statement."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"In this extract it is stated that 'some think that we must call Japan to our aid and crush this people (the British). . . etc.' This is only the ex parte statement of the shorthand writer, and we do not know anything of his qualifications. But from the passage quoted here, it does not look like a very coherent statement. That itself makes me feel that Dr. Varadarajulu Nayudu himself might not have been the person to make such a statement. Here it is said 'Japan is our elder brother'. There is nothing wrong in that. Many a Member has said. . . ."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I am sure hon. Members would like to put supplementary questions. But seeing that we have already trespassed on the second hour of this sitting, I should like any question to be put at once."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"Well, Sir, I will put my question. In view of the language of the extract given here, it does not seem to read like a coherent or reasonable statement. It is said: 'If Japan is respected more, then Japan will try to claim India for themselves'. In view of the fact that this is one of the most mystifying statements, will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to say that the definite charge categorically made that Dr. Varadarajulu Nayudu invited Japan to come to India is not proved?"

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"May I ask whether the hon. the Law Member will be pleased to say whether the whole speech contains only this reference to Japan or whether there are any other references to Japan?"

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to lay on the table the full speeches, so that any misconception may be avoided."



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The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I repeat, Sir, again what I said before that if Dr. Varadarajulu Nayudu says that he did not intend anything like that, the Government will only be too anxious and willing in his own interest to accept his statement. We do not propose to lay the whole speech on the table because if the fact is challenged, further action may be necessary."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" My question is not answered, and that is, whether this is the only reference to Japan in the whole speech or whether there are other references to it. We are not at all concerned with what Dr. Varadarajulu may or may not do."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I can speak only from memory. I think there is another reference in this speech; but there are other references to Japan in other speeches."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" In view of the fact that the Government themselves not being satisfied with the passage in which Japan occurs would not bear the peculiar construction put upon it, the Government say that they were strengthened in their construction of his speech by another speech in which the following passage is said to occur :—' Europeans come to India in the winter season. . . then we must create some riots, etc. . . ' This does not seem necessarily to bear the interpretation that those riots should have any connexion with the Japanese invasion. Some other passages also are given. Would it not mean making a statement and then expecting him to disclaim it? Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to say that on the evidence available, such an inference as was drawn was possible but that it is not irresistible? "

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I am afraid I cannot disown what I said in view of this definite statement, namely, ' Some think that we must call Japan to our aid ', that word ' us ' includes himself. It is said ' then many of us will proceed with Purnakumbhams '. Purnakumbham is of religious significance and indicates a welcome. The passage also says ' What Japan is doing is right ', that is crushing the British people."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" In view of the fact that Dr. Varadarajulu Nayudu is an educated man who knows grammar he would not have said many of the words in the passages quoted."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I am afraid the hon. Member is passing beyond the limits of a supplementary question."

*Treatment of a certain member of the depressed classes.*

241 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a member of the depressed class was confined to the stocks in an obscure taluk of Trichinopoly from 10 to 2 o'clock by the village magistrate between the middle of October and the first week of November 1923 ;

(b) whether it is a fact that a petition was submitted to the Government by the President of the Depressed Classes Society, Trichinopoly, praying for an early removal of the objectionable form of punishment ;